

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 PC-01 IO-13 TRSE-00 /076 W
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R 271115Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3709
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IN
SUBJECT: J. P. NARAYAN APPEALS TO JANATA "REBELS" TO RETIRE FROM
STATE ASSEMBLY RACES

REF: NEW DELHI 7594

1. THE JANATA PARTY HAS STEPPED UP ITS EFFORTS TO PERSUADE
SO-CALLED "REBELS" TO RETIRE FROM STATE ASSEMBLY CONTESTS
AND THROW THEIR SUPPORT BEHIND THE PARTY'S OFFICIAL CANDIDATES.
IN HIS FIRST POLITICAL STATEMENT SINCE RETURNING TO INDIA
MAY 21, JANATA ELDER STATESMAN J. P. NARAYAN ON MAY 26 ISSUED
AN APPEAL TO THOSE JANATA MEMBERS DENIED TICKETS TO RETIRE
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FROM THE RUNNING AND "WHOLEHEARTEDLY WORK FOR THE VICTORY OF
THE PARTY." HE STATED THAT THE JANATA STATE ELCTION COMMITTEES,
WORKING "UNDER TREMENDOUS PRESSURE", HAD DISCHARGED THEIR
TASKS "TO THE BEST OF THEIR ABILITY." EVEN THOUGH HE HIMSELF
WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT WOMEN AND MUSLIMS HAD NOT RECEIVED FAIR
REPRESENTATION IN SOME STATES, J. P. DECLARED THAT ALL
CONTROVERSIES OVER TICKET DISTRIBUTION MUST NOW CEASE IN

ORDER TO PREVENT A TARNISHING OF JANATA'S IMAGE.

2. IN HIS OPENING CAMPAIGN SWING THROUGH U.P. MAY 26, PRIME MINISTER DESAI CONCEDED THAT THE SELECTION PROCESS HAD CAUSED DISSATISFACTION AND ANGER, BUT DECLARED THAT THOSE REBELS WHO CONTESTED AND WON AS INDEPENDENTS WOULD NOT BE ADMITTED INTO THE JANATA LATER ON. HE ADDED THAT PARTY DISCIPLINE REQUIRED THAT SUCH PERSONS BE EXCLUDED FROM THE PARTY. JANATA GENERAL SECRETARY NANAJI DESHMUKH SPOKE ALONG SIMILAR LINES AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN LUCKNOW THE SAME DAY. DEFENDING THE TICKET DISTRIBUTION PROCESS AS "PROCEDURALLY CORRECT", DESHMUKH WARNED THE REBELS EITHER DEFEATED OR ELECTED WOULD NOT BE READMITTED INTO THE JANATA FOLD. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT HE HAD ALREADY PERSUADED 47 SUCH NON-OFFICIAL CANDIDATES TO RETIRE FROM THE FIELD AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT "99.9 PERCENT" OF THE JANATA REBELS WOULD RETIRE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. ACCORDING TO THE "TIMES OF INDIA" ACCOUNT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE, DESHMUKH'S LAST STATEMENT WAS RECEIVED WITH "VARYING DEGREES OF INCREDULITY AMONG THE ASSEMBLED NEWSMEN."

3. COMMENT: SOURCES TELL US THAT A PROCESSION OF JANATA LEADERS AND SENIOR MP'S HAVE BEEN CALLING ON J. P. IN BOMBAY FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS TO URGE HIM TO INTERVENE AND STOP THE SQUABBLING IN JANATA RANKS. THE LAST TIME J. P. INTERVENED IN PARTY AFFAIRS OCCURRED IN LATE MARCH WHEN HE SUCCESSFULLY APPEALED TO SEVERAL RECALCITRANT JANATA/CFD FIGURES (RAM, BAHUGUNA, GEORGE FERNANDES) TO JOIN DESAI'S FLEDGLING CABINET. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER HIS CURRENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPEAL WILL MEET WITH SIMILAR SUCCESS. IN ADDITION, AS SENIOR CONGRESS PARTY OFFICIAL HAS TOLD US, THERE IS A LIMIT TO THE EXTENT TO WHICH J. P. CAN INTERVENE. SHOULD HE REGULARLY INVOLVE HIMSELF IN EFFORTS TO SETTLE INTERNAL PROBLEMS IN THE JANATA, J. P. COULD QUICKLY EXPEND HIS POLITICAL CAPITAL AS THE PARTY'S ELDER SAGE AND HIS INFLUENCE WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY WANE.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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